Governments of Northern region out of which 71 Nos. of works have been sanctioned amounting Rs. 161.14 crore and balance works are at different stages of technical scrutiny.

69 Nos. of National Highway improvement works included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 costing Rs. 337.14 crores were received from the State Government of western region out of which 33 Nos. of works have been sanctioned amounting Rs. 120.24 crore and balance works are at different stages of technical scrutiny.

(d) All the works included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 are considered for sanction during the year based on *inter-se* priority and availability of funds subject to fulfilling of technical parameters.

Six laning of 6500 km of National Highway

1770. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering Rs. 22,750 crore project to lay six lane roads covering 6,500 km of National Highway;

(b) whether this proposal has been mooted on the direction of the Prime Minister;

(c) whether it would be implemented on the design build, finance and operate basis instead of the build, operate and transfer basis;

(d) whether the project would cover highways that carry traffic of 40,000 passenger can units a day; and

(e) if so, by what time the project is likley to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Committee on Infrastructure headed by Prime Minister has approved 6-laning of 6,500 km of existing 4-lane National Highways which will include the entire length of 5846 km of Golden Quadrilateral.

(c) Yes, Sir. It would be implemented on the Design, Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) basis through Public Private Partnership. DEFO is also one form of Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) model.

(d) and (e) The details are under discussion with the Planning Commission.